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SOURC

POW Receiving Station -- Smolensk

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1. I was a POW in the USSR from [] 1945 through [] 1948. For the first 25X1X two months of my years as a prisoner I was confined at a Soviet concentration camp on the outskirts of Smolensk. This camp, called "Capitol", was located approximately two kilometers from town on the left side of the railroad tracks. It was situated on a hill near a small factory [type unknown]. (I'm unable to furnish specific information on the above.) This camp was originally set up to house approximately two hundred prisoners. When I was confined there along with two hundred other German POWs, the number approximated four hundred. There were no bunks or facilities for us, consequently we late arrivals (two hundred of us) were forced to sleep in the lobby of the administration building. We had no blankets or cots but were forced to sleep on the floor. After we had been confined for about two weeks, double decker wooden bunks were moved into the administration building. Facilities were practically nil for we had no lights, running water or blankets -- only wooden bunks. Heat was provided by an age-old Soviet "Pech" [a stove].
2. Our food consisted of sunflower oil, sugar, dark bread, and thin beet soup. In addition, we were given three spoons of Kashka [oatmeal gruel or mush] at lunch. Our tobacco supply consisted of 15 grams of German tobacco per day, but if we were given Soviet Mahorka [tobacco] we were allotted 30 grams per day. Officers were supplied 40 grams of granulated sugar per day and enlisted men 15 grams per day. In addition to the above food, officers were supposed to receive rations of butter. We did receive the butter -- not individually allotted, but sent to the kitchen where it was used in common for all prisoners. We prisoners knew, however, that the German Lager Commandant and his crew of ten men, who did nothing but work closely with the USSR officers, received not only butter but comparatively much better food than we prisoners.

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3. After several weeks of residence in the lobby of the administration building, we were moved upstairs where it was warmer. The USSR personnel at the Smolensk Camp did not personally torture or brutalize us. Such treatment was administered by the German Lager Commandant and his henchmen -- all German Communists. On occasion German officers who tried to flee from the Smolensk Camp were captured. In each case the captured prisoner was taken to the Lager Commandant who, in conjunction with his personnel, administered physical beatings and torture to such prisoners.
 4. I understood that since I was an officer, I would not have to work but could have remained idle and in confinement. However, I sought manual labor in order to retain my health. The Soviet authorities assigned me to work near where I unloaded wood and coal from railroad wagons. Four additional prisoners labored with me. We were not marched to work in the customary Soviet manner, but were accompanied by one USSR guard who permitted us to walk and talk among ourselves as we approached our place of work.
 5. The armament of our guards varied -- sometimes they carried semi-automatics and at other times rifles. Our treatment at the hands of Soviet guards differed but by and large, so long as we did not attempt to speak with USSR civilians, we were not beaten or molested.

Cherepovets

6. I do not know why I was transferred from Smolensk to Vologda, but presume that the Smolensk Camp was used essentially as a receiving station. En route to Vologda, I was confined for several months in a prisoner camp at the town of Cherepovets. This was a large camp with at least ten thousand prisoners. The majority of the prisoners were German but there were some Hungarians. While I was not able to move about much, I recall that there were a number of large hospitals in Cherepovets (at least ten). Each of these hospitals was a two-story wooden building crammed with sick prisoners. The predominant illness was dystrophy which was caused by lack of nourishment and overwork. I understood that approximately 50 thousand prisoners had died at Cherepovets prior to my arrival, the majority from dystrophy. During my sojourn at Cherepovets, I was assigned to work in the kitchen at one of these hospitals. (There were ten such kitchens in the area.) Each kitchen prepared two thousand liters of Kasha with three tablespoons of Kasha per person. I arrived at the figure of ten thousand prisoners by estimating the number of tablespoons of Kasha prepared.
7. We had no running water at this camp, consequently the kitchens were constantly melting snow. Vast amounts of fire wood were consumed throughout the camp. I was eventually assigned to a wood gathering brigade. This brigade consisted of 15 sleds with ten men per sled. We walked from 12 to 15 kilometers each way hauling five cubic meters of wood per sled. The supply of wood was plentiful since the area around Cherepovets was heavily forested with birchwood. The wood we hauled was intended for use at the hospital, but we also had to supply the individual quarters of the Soviet officers.
8. The doctor in charge of the hospitals at Cherepovets was a woman of Jewish extraction who apparently disliked the Germans. As I stated, an abnormal number of German prisoners died at the camp. Eventually a Commission was sent from Moscow to hold an investigation. This Commission inspected all of the barracks. Several days prior to its arrival, we were given blankets, pillows, etc. However, when the Commission returned to Moscow, the bedding was taken away from us. Whenever anyone died in the barracks the body, uncovered and undressed, with no religious rites, was taken from the barracks and thrown into a nearby field. We were not permitted to dig graves. Something of interest to me was the fact that the woman doctor in charge ordered that all prisoners who were in critical condition be removed from the barracks prior to the arrival of the Commission. These prisoners were taken from the camp into the field where they were left to die.

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Vologda -- Physical Security

9. At Vologda we were confined in the buildings of an unfinished factory. (About all that I can remember concerning this factory is that it had the number "38" above the door, which leads me to believe that that was the date of construction.) There were several stone buildings, one of them with a very high smoke stack. It was located alongside the railroad track which runs from Moscow to Leningrad on the right side of the town of Vologda. [Source couldn't specify.] There were three such buildings. The largest, slightly larger than the others, was about one hundred meters wide, 10 to 12 meters high, and 30 meters wide. There were four watch towers, one at each corner of a rectangular fence which enclosed these buildings. The guards who were assigned to watch duty in the towers were of Mongolian extraction. Each guard had a German Shepherd dog. The towers which were about 10 meters high were equipped with search lights. The guards at the towers were rotated every two or three hours. Near the towers was a small guard house which served as quarters for the guards. The fence which surrounded this camp was actually a double fence about 10 feet high. It was electrically wired so that if any prisoners tried to escape, the moment they made contact with the fence it automatically touched off sirens and bells alerting the guards who immediately turned on their spot lights and shooting began.

Regimentation

10. We were awakened by our company leader at about 5:00 AM every morning. After washing, we received our morning ration of soup and bread which each company procured from the kitchen. Between 5:30 and 6:00 AM we were counted very slowly. If anyone was missing, we had to stand an additional hour or so until we were counted again. After this count, we were escorted to the gate and recounted as we passed the gate guards. Four companies of us, in squads of five, were then marched to our work. We worked from 7:00 to 12:00 AM and were then permitted to rest for an hour if we so desired, but were not given any food. I can recall that we made a deal with the nachalnik [chief] of the guards. It was agreed that we would work through the noon hour if we could return to the prison one hour earlier.
11. After work concluded for the day, we were marched to the gate where we were again counted and then walked to the barracks to receive our lunch which consisted of dark bread and soup but no liquids. This meal took place at 6:30 PM. After all working groups of prisoners returned and had their lunch, we were again counted (the entire camp). Then at about eight o'clock we had our dinner which consisted of thin soup and dark bread. In addition, we were given sugar, butter and tobacco. Since there was no food with which we could use the sugar and butter, we ate them individually. After our dinner, we could walk about the camp, although the USSR guards did not like it. However, the latrine was at the far end of the barracks which necessitated our walking through the entire camp. At this camp we had blankets, shoe repair, medical treatment and an occasional moving picture. I can recall seeing "Sun Valley Serenade" in English. The actors were Glenn Miller and Sonja Henie.

Political Indoctrination

12. While I was at Vologda we were not forced to undergo any political indoctrination which was handled directly by agents of the USSR. However, we did undergo political indoctrination under the direction of the anti-fascist council. We prisoners called it the "Anti-Fa". The Anti-Fa existed in every concentration camp to which I was sent. The personnel of this organization were always Germans from Germany with a long background in communism. The Anti-Fa leaders had offices at the prison and in most cases were closely affiliated with the company leaders who were also communists. The chief of Anti-Fa at Vologda was much kinder than the one at Smolensk. His instructions to us Germans were as follows:

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- a. Do your work and always fulfill the required norm.
 - b. He impressed us with the philosophy that we must do something good for the USSR.
 - c. He reminded us that the largest nation, the Soviet Union, was the greatest contributor to world peace.
 - d. The people in the USSR, according to the Anti-Fa leader were making real progress in working for freedom and for peace.
 - e. He reminded us that the citizens of the Soviet Union were very happy, much happier than we in Germany had been.
 - f. He showed us production curves concerned with Soviet Union industry and its amazing accomplishments from 1917 to 1947, stating that Soviet development, because of its loyal happy people, was coming into its own.
13. The Anti-Fa leaders had their own informers who transmitted information concerning the prisoners to the Anti-Fascist Council. For informing upon the prisoners, the informers received extra rations of bread and soup. Incidentally, prisoners who in the estimation of the Anti-Fa were considered wholly reliable, were sent into the town of Vologda where they were given better positions, incentive awards and freedom to make purchases in the open market.

Road Building and Norm Requirements

- 25X1X 14. From [] I worked at road building on what was supposed to have been a special highway linking Moscow to Archangel. Our equipment consisted of shovels and small two-man platforms which we loaded with dirt. The Soviet norm books described in detail techniques necessary in the movement of soft soil and hard soil, and included the requirements necessary for a completed norm. Every foot we walked was taken into consideration. If it rained we had to work longer, but nevertheless the norm had to be fulfilled before we would be given credit for a full day's work. Near this road on the outskirts of Vologda was a small village which was inhabited solely by women and girls. These individuals had small carts in which they hauled stones for our road work. The stones were from three to four feet in circumference. We had to split them and lay them on the road.

Soviet Civilian Prisoners

15. On the other side of the road was a USSR civilian prisoner camp. The prisoners from this camp worked with us for about three weeks. I noticed that while we Germans were loosely guarded, the Soviet citizens were much more heavily regimented and under much closer scrutiny and had more guards than we. For every two hundred Soviet laborers there were approximately 30 guards with dogs, machine guns, rifles and bayonets. The guards kept their guns constantly trained upon the Soviet prisoners. To point up the plight of these prisoners, I can recall that on the several occasions we spoke with them they looked at our short sentences of three years as comparatively nothing. Their usual comment for such a sentence was "skoro" (soon). By and large, the average sentence of these people ranged from 10 to 15 years. I noticed that many of them were intelligent. There were no children among them, only women and men.

Soviet Inefficiency and Fear

16. With reference to this road, we completed from seven to eight kilometers of it. It was from five to six meters wide. An ironic situation as I recall it was that we had to fill a small declivity with earth by hand while all sorts of American road equipment nearby lay idle because no one knew how to use it. I can recall that several days after we filled the above declivity, trucks

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hauled large aqueducts to this area. These aqueducts were supposed to have been placed prior to the area being covered over. Of course, the truck drivers were afraid to return the aqueducts to the point of origin so they were covered up indiscriminately with no thought that they could be used elsewhere or properly installed, as originally planned. To me, this pointed up the inherent fear of Soviet citizens for higher authority. Incidentally, when the rains came the road buckled since it had no real foundation. (I remember later I was at Leningrad rolling a cigarette from a piece of paper which I had torn from the newspaper "Pravda", when I saw a picture of this road. The small article stated that a new super-highway had been constructed at Cherepovets by USSR engineers. This propaganda, of course, came from Moscow. Later I heard from other German prisoners that the road was demolished and that the government was looking for the "fall guy".)

17. The USSR guards who stood over us as we worked on the above highway didn't say anything when we worked in haste or used substitutes. All they were interested in was making a good norm. We had to work in thunder storms, rain, etc. I can remember on one particular day during a heavy rain that one of our comrades had fallen behind in his norm. We volunteered to help him, but the Nachalnik would not permit us to assist him. A number of other German prisoners who were ill fell by the wayside. When we offered to assist the above workers and the sick men, we were beaten severely by the guards.

The Leningrad POW Camp - at the Krasny Otkyabr Installations

18. I was confined at a prison camp at Spaskaya [the northern part of Leningrad]. This camp contained about two thousand German prisoners. Our first Nachalnik was a ~~Soviet~~ Ober-lieutenant by the name of (fnu) Feodoroff. Of all the Soviets that I can remember he was by far the kindest to us. In fact, he felt badly whenever we were punished for any violation. When I left for Germany, a free man, Feodoroff was supposed to accompany my group. However, at the last minute his orders were cancelled. We Germans felt that he was suspected by the Soviets who were afraid that he might defect. Feodoroff stood about five feet seven, was between 45 and 50 years of age, had black hair, and wore glasses. He was a thin fellow with no visible physical scars. He spoke Russian but could understand German. I can recall on many occasions he used to play chess with German doctors and other prisoners. While he was Nachalnik of the prison, the deceased Germans received proper burial including funeral rites.
19. At Spaskaya we lived in an unfinished factory building which was apparently equipped for prisoners before our arrival. There were iron cots and mattresses. My group was quartered in a large room with 150 men per room. There were three floors which contained 150 men per room and several small rooms with 20 to 30 men per room. There were no Soviet guards in the camp. We were counted every morning and every night. The counting in the morning took place as in previous prisons upon arising, when leaving the gate for work, when we returned to the gate, and the final evening count. While I was at this prison I had several assignments. One of these was doing cement work, that is making foundations for buildings. We did not receive wood for forms for these foundations because the Soviets needed the wood for home consumption. I have never seen anything like the manufacturing development which took place in Leningrad in 1947 and 1948, especially at this large installation where I was confined as a prisoner. The area in which the Spaskaya plant and the prison were located was about two kilometers square. One half of this area was occupied by two factories with the remaining portion used solely for storage. The materials stored in the above (as I recall) consisted of more than 150 cable drums manufactured by AEG Berlin, airplane motors -- primarily German types, hundreds of automobiles of all types taken from the German Army, pictures, electric switches, sewing machines, etc.
20. We prisoners repaired the walls for these factories with cement which we mixed at the ratio of one shovel of cement to three shovels of sand. I can recall that in laying the floor for one of the plants, we laid the foundations for

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steel lathes. Although I am not a technical man, I can remember that these were lathes of German manufacture, coming from Stuttgart, Dusseldorf, and Cologne. The building in which these machines were finally placed was 120-150 meters long, 80-100 meters wide, and five stories high. When I left, [] this building housed approximately one hundred such machine lathes. As I now recall, smaller lathes housed on the top floor were used to make precision instruments (types unknown to me). At other buildings the following items were produced: aluminum cooling systems for airplanes, barrels for machine guns, and approximately 50 electric motors per day. Also within the confines of this area was a new cinder block factory which produced cinder blocks by the thousands. There was also an older cinder block factory in the same vicinity.

21. The personnel at these installations worked around the clock. I can recall that as a sweeper on the first floor of the building which contained all of the lathes, I saw mountains of steel clippings being hauled away by trucks every morning. With reference to the personnel at the lathes, I believe one man worked with two to three lathes. In the summer of 1948 we German prisoners were assigned the mission of building a large number of barracks for German engineers and workmen who voluntarily arrived from Germany.

/See pages 8 and 9 for sketches of physical installation and some of the items produced./

Litsyny Bridge at Leningrad

22. This bridge has four lanes for vehicular traffic with two streetcar tracks in the center. There are wide walks on the outer sides of the bridge for pedestrians. On the railing which stands about 30 inches above the base of the bridge, are iron posts with lamps. This bridge must be at least 15 meters wide. I do not know its distance from the water, but can recall that large ships were able to pass beneath it. So far as I can recall, this bridge was one solid suspension and not the drawbridge or cantilever type. I say this because I cannot recall having seen it raised or lowered at any time. The bridge is supported by large cement pillars. (The distance between them is unknown to me.) In 1948 it was in operation with no visible defects or deficiencies. I do not believe that it was seriously damaged during World War II. (It is an important installation since traffic by auto, bus and streetcar must cross this bridge to travel north.)

Attitudes of the Civilian Population Toward the Germans

23. From what I could gather, the average attitude of the civilian population in Leningrad toward German prisoners was expressed by the desire to be friendly. When I first arrived at Leningrad there were no bath houses at the prison camp; consequently, we walked to the large public bath and shower once a month. During our trips to and from the public bath we, of course, encountered a considerable number of Soviet citizens who were very friendly. In classifying people by ages and attitudes toward the Germans, I would say that the youngsters up to approximately 20 years of age hated us, but people from that age and upwards were disposed toward sympathy and kindness. In mid-1948 movies, which had been objective, shifted their propaganda attempting to develop a theme of hate toward the Germans. From then on movies concentrated their attack on either the Western Germans or the Western democracies. It appeared to me that this trend of propaganda was accomplishing its goal only among the youth and not the more mature civilians.
24. At the Leningrad camp we prisoners attended political indoctrination meetings twice a week. A Soviet colonel, whose name we were never given, spoke to us through a translator. The translator was a member of the Anti-Fascist Council and always a Communist of long standing in pre-World War II Germany. Such meetings would last from two to three hours. While we were told that attendance at these meetings was not obligatory, we soon learned that the Anti-Fa had in-

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formers who would place us on report, so, to protect ourselves, we attended the meetings. The general agenda as I now remember it, was somewhat along the following lines:

- a. During the introductory period the stress was on anti-Nazism, pointing out that it was because of Hitler and the Nazi organization that we were in our present plight. The Soviet colonel would emphasize the fact that the USSR had a legalistic and moral right to keep us prisoners until all damage to USSR by the German forces was repaired.
- b. He benevolently informed us that we should be thankful to the Soviets for protecting us behind the large fences or enclosures -- that they were actually saving us from the population on the outside which hated us for our past actions. He reminded us that the Soviet government in its kindness and virtue was providing us with food and shelter.
- c. We were told that if we ever received freedom or release from Soviet confinement, we had better say nothing uncomplimentary regarding the Soviet Union for, according to this colonel, they had agents all over the world who could find us no matter where we were.
- d. At this meeting we were invited to ask questions, which we were not inclined to do because of the stupidity of the entire affair. However, after several meetings, some of the bolder and perhaps more intelligent prisoners asked questions which were of an absurd nature and necessitated an absurd answer. In a number of cases these people disappeared.
- e. We made resolutions to aid in building East Germany along peaceful lines and particularly friendly lines toward the Soviet Union when we returned to Germany.
- f. The loyal and more interested German prisoners, i.e., those who appeared to have fully accepted the political indoctrination, were sent to the Political School in Moscow. In the fall of 1948, from 300 to 400 such prisoners were sent to Germany. I can remember that they returned in tailored German uniforms, were well dressed, appeared to be in good health and destined for a Communist career.

Hospitalization

25. While I was in the hospital receiving medication for dystrophy, I learned from attendants that if a prisoner was constantly hospitalized, he was considered a burden for he was no longer productive. In most cases such prisoners were eventually sent home, for they were an expense to the Soviet Union. It was my understanding that a rule existed whereby if a prisoner were hospitalized for a period of over four months and was not an officer, he would be sent home. In my case, since I was an officer, they were not going to release me. My fate lay in the hands of the political officer who finally decided that I would be released and returned to Germany. An interesting situation which developed while I was at the hospital was that I learned that a large vegetable Kombinat was short of personnel. The German Lager Commandant made a deal with the manager of the vegetable Kombinat whereby he would supply him with personnel, in most cases prisoners who were ill but whose illness in the estimation of the Soviet doctors, did not warrant hospitalization. The manager of the vegetable Kombinat then provided additional food to the Lager Commandant and his personnel; as a result, they fared much better than the prisoners. Whenever the Soviet authorities decided to free German prisoners, such prisoners were removed from the wards and sent to the fourth floor of the hospital. Every piece of paper and all personal belongings were taken away from them. Then the political officer spoke to them individually. I was unable to determine who spoke to me for the room was dark, a spotlight was turned into my face, and I was asked such questions as my name, number and Army unit. They seemed to be particularly interested in where I had fought. I was questioned several times.

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At the end of each questioning, the political officer continuously impressed upon me the importance of my maintaining a kindly attitude toward the Soviet Union when I returned to Germany. After we were released, we were taken to Eastern Germany where we remained in custody for two weeks. During these two weeks we were fed a great deal of bread, soup, Kasha and yeast. From the Soviet viewpoint, these two weeks were a success for we were all much fatter and did not look at all undernourished when we were permitted to go to our homes. No one could say that our years in prison affected our physical make-up and well being.

26. I know that of a number of prisoners (approximately 12) seven were successful in feigning a serious illness. In each case these prisoners pleaded that they were suffering from a critical kidney ailment. They were requested by Soviet physicians to submit a urine specimen. In order to produce a defective specimen they would prick their finger and drop one particle of blood into the urine. After presenting such urine specimens for continued analysis, these men were released for return to Germany as sick men.

Electric Motor
[See paragraph 20]

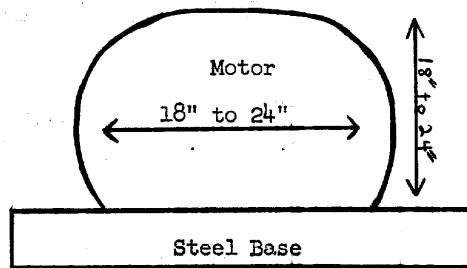


Figure 1

I know nothing about electrical output, but can recall that the above motor was heavy. Four men were needed to load it into a Studebaker truck.

Cooling System for Aircraft
[See paragraph 20]

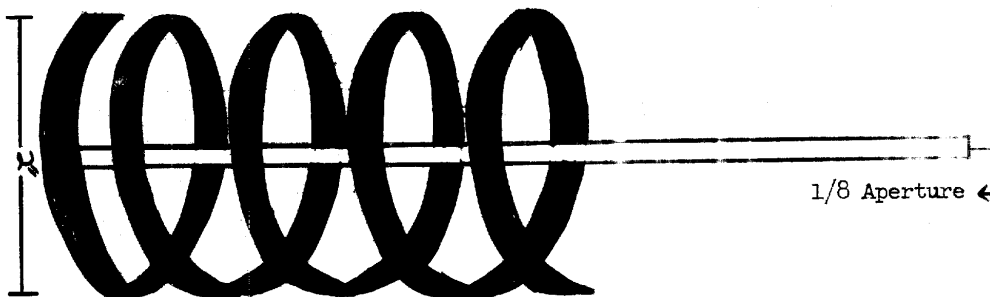


Figure 2

[redacted] identified the above as aluminum coils used for cooling systems in airplanes.

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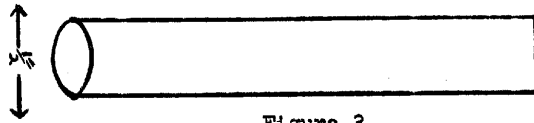
Machine Gun Barrel[See paragraph 20]

Figure 3

I personally handled the above machine gun barrels and noted that riflings had been cut into them. The outer surface, however, was rough. The barrels must have been sent elsewhere for finishing.

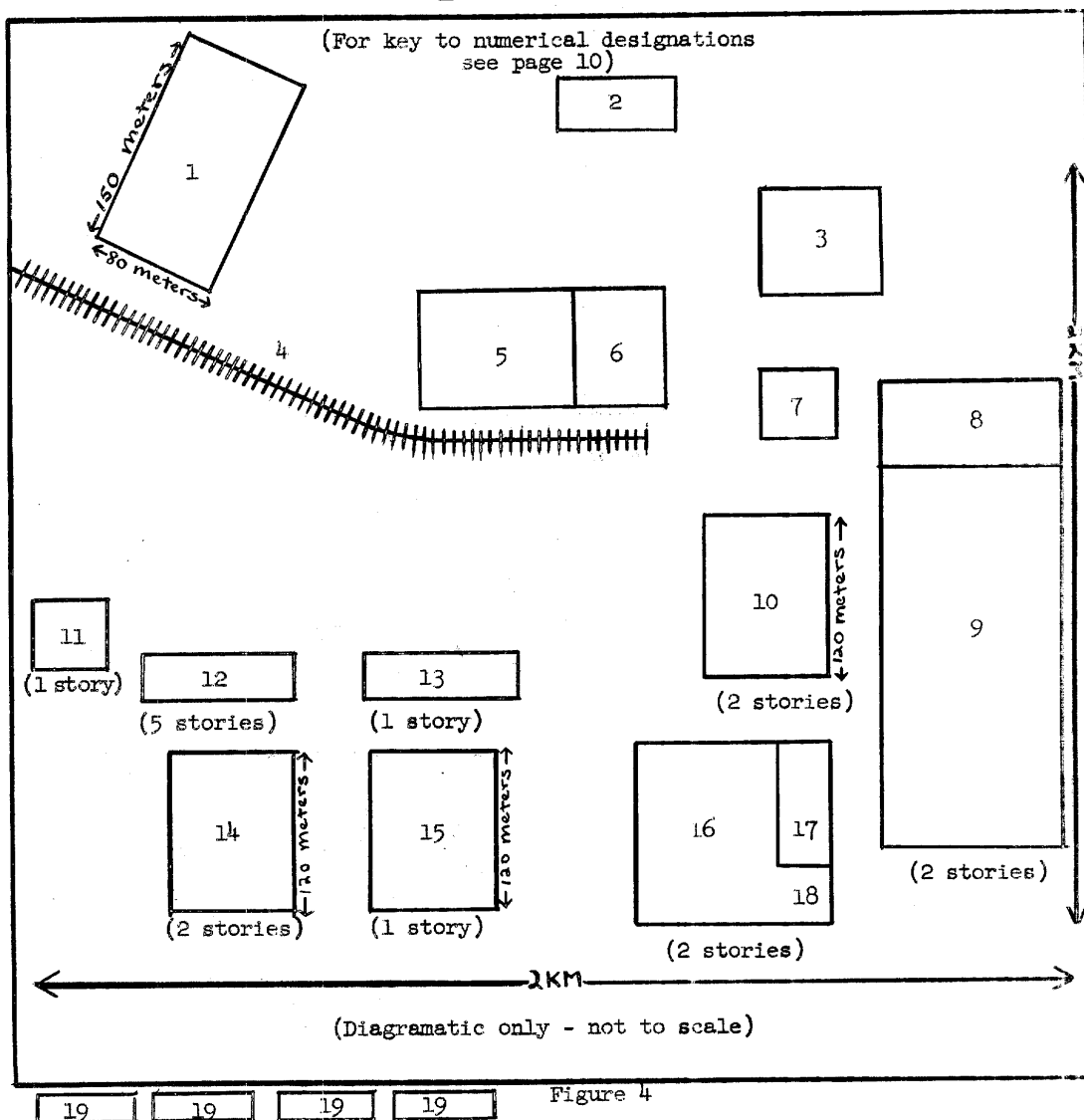
The Krasny Oktyabr Factoryand Its Appurtenances[See paragraphs 18 - 21]

Figure 4

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Key to Numerical Designations on Page 9

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Supply Shop | 11. Forges, Molds and Castings |
| a. Sheet metal | 12. Lathes |
| b. Slabs of steel | 13. Administration Building for Krasny Oktyabr |
| c. Raw materials | 14. Machine Shop - type unknown |
| 2. Cinder Block Factory | 15. Technical Lab |
| 3. Lumber Yard | 16. POW Camp |
| 4. Railroad Tracks (single line) | 17. Unknown |
| 5. Metal Machines (types unknown) | 18. Kitchen |
| 6. Steel Furnaces | 19. Apartments for German scientists who arrived in mid-1948 to work at Krasny Oktyabr |
| 7. Brick Factory | |
| 8. Storage Space | |
| 9. Machine Shop
(dimensions not recalled) | |
| 10. Barracks for Workers | |

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179.13	727N(4M)
179.13	717N(4M)
179.13	317N(4M)
857.198	717N
138.2	717N
179.131	717N
754.4	717N
761.125	717N
767	717N
135.3	717N
748.11	317N
748.2	317N
743.15	317N
4/741.72	317N
754.8	317N
179.131	317N
179.132	N

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